

May 16, 1985

LB 31  
LR 264, 265

Your Committee on Appropriations whose Chair is Senator Warner reports LB 31 to General File with committee amendments attached and, Mr. President, LR 265 is ready for your signature. (See page 2333 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LR 265.

CLERK: That's all that I have, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Then we are entered upon the agenda now for resolutions, LR 264. Is Senator Rod Johnson available? He is.

CLERK: Mr. President, 264 is offered by Senator Johnson and it is on page 2227 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT: The resolution is limited for a one-half hour discussion which will begin the moment that Senator Johnson begins speaking. May we have order in the Chamber, please. (Gavel.) Order in the Chamber, please. LR 264. Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members, the Speaker has asked me to try and keep this particular issue to a half an hour. I hope that it won't take nearly that long and I will certainly try and keep my remarks as brief and as concise as possible. The Cargo Preference Act was, basically, passed in 1954. We've had "preferencing" laws since about 1900 and part of the problem of course is that the Cargo Preference Act requires that 50 percent of all agricultural, or excuse me, all products shipped overseas shall be shipped under U.S. Cargo or Merchant Marine ships. This has caused I think an undue and extremely burdensome pressure upon agriculture as a whole and in fact the Cargo Preference Act is costing the Commodity Credit Corporation, which is under the Department of Agriculture, anywhere from a 100 to 150 million dollars a year for subsidizing the Merchant Marine of the United States. I'm not here to criticize U.S. shipping policies, but I am here to point out that this particular Cargo Preference Act does have a severe economic impact on agriculture. It has been estimated that under the Cargo Preference Act that grain that is shipped on that particular...under U.S. shipping has a tendency to increase